SHASTRI): (a) RBI's requirement of currency and bank notes during the last three years is as indicated in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLIV, Annexure No. 73].

(b) The details of currency / bank notes printed and supplied to RBI for circulation during the last 3 years are as indicated in above Annexure.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) To bridge the gap between the demand and for the supply of currency / bank notes, the following steps have been taken:—

(1) The existing two note printing presses at Dewas and Nasik have been put on two shifts working of 11 hours each.

(2) The Govt. have decided to set up two new Note Printing Presses— one at Salboni (West Bengal) and the other at Mysore (Karnataka).

(3) A decision has been taken to coinise Re. 1/-, Rs. 2/- and Rs. 5/- denomination notes in a phased manner so as to utilise the capacity so released for printing of higher denomination notes.

Production of Coins by Government Mints

1623. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the production of coins in the Government Mints in the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) what was the extent of import of coins (value-wise and denomination-wise) during these years, if any, and the reasons therefor,

(c) whether the Government Mints are now geared up to produce sufficient quantity of coins to meet circulation needs;

(d) if answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what steps are being taken in this regard; and

(e) whether Government propose to import coins in the coming years to meet shortage in production, if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The production of coins in the Government Mints during the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 were as under:—

Year	Production (in million pieces)
1987-88	2945
1988-89	3183
1989-90	2844

(b) During the above period 1250 million pieces of Stainless Steel Coins at a total cost of Rs. 17.09 crores in the following denominations were also imported:

Denomination	Quantity (in million pieces)
50 paise	300
25 paise	400
10 paise	550

The above quantities of coins were imported to implement Government's decision to introduce Stainless Steel Coins in the denominations of 50 paise, 25 paise and 10 paise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e) Do not arise.

Government Mint at NOIDA

1624. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the new Government Mint at NOIDA went into production;

(b) what production has been achieved by it since it went into production, year-wise;

(c) whether it used / uses imported stainless steel blanks to produce finished coins; and

(d) if so, when it will be possible

to completely indigenise the total manufacture of coins in this Mint?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) India Government Mint, NOIDA went into production on 1st July, 1988.

(b) The production details year-wise of NOIDA Mint since it went into production are as under:

Year	Production of Coins (in million pieces)
1988-89	450
1989-90	743

(c) This Mint is using imported stainless steel coin blanks for minting the coins.

(d) NOIDA Mint does not have any blanking facility of its own. It has only stamping facility. Efforts are in progress on the following lines to make available coin blanks indigenously:

(a) Provisions of blanking facility as part of Modernisation Programme under implementation at Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad Mints, expected to be completed by December, 1992;

(b) Supply of stainless steel strips by Steel Authority of India (SAIL) in due course to these Mints for making blanks; and

(c) Ordering, in the meantime, of coin blanks from SAIL for supply with effect from February, 1991.

Setting up of Trade Fair centres in different parts of the country

1625. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Trade Fair Authority of India plans to set up more centres on the lines of the Pragati Maidan in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the names of the places where the centres are proposed to be set up; and

(c) in what way the infrastructure at the Pragati Maidan in Delhi is going to be utilised to the optimum capacity round the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREE DHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Trade Fair Authority of India aims at organising trade fairs not only in Delhi but also in other important cities and State capitals. Though there are certain proposals to develop exhibition infrastructure in the metropolitan cities in the country like Bombay, no definite project has emerged.

(c) TFAI has plans to increase the number of fairs in reference to specific product groups with export thrust, to be organised under its own aegis. It is also making efforts in encouraging outside agencies to hire out exhibition space in Pragati Maidan for organising their exhibitions.

Direction received by custom authorities from Ministry of Commerce

1626. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that custom authorities had received a direction from the Ministry of Commerce requesting them not to clear certain Non-OGL Capital goods on REP and additional licences in terms of paras 177 and 215 of the 1988-91 Import and Export Policy;

(b) if so, whether there has been any deviation from these directions and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the broad details of imports permitted in contradiction to